

erect, on the hinder part of the forehead, near the front base of the ears; the upper hinder part of the eyebrows with a roundish naked prominence. Tail short, with long hairs on the underside and tip, which is bent up and curled over the upper surface. Fur dark brown, the hairs with an indistinct pale ring; beneath rather paler; the upper part of the tail, the forehead, nape, feet, and the middle of the back black, gradually shading into the brown of the sides; the sides of the head, neck, and hinder sides of the haunches pale brown; lips, chin, a narrow streak over each eyebrow, and the underside and tip of the tail white.

*Hab.* West Africa?

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April 24, 1866.

St. George Mivart, Esq., F.L.S., F.Z.S., in the Chair.

Mr. P. L. Selater, Secretary to the Society, made some remarks on some of the recent additions to the Society's Menagerie, amongst which were particularly noticed—

1. A pair of Straw-necked Ibises (*Ibis spinicollis*, Jameson), from New South Wales, being the first examples of this beautiful species received alive in this country. The male bird had been presented to the Society by the Acclimatization Society of New South Wales; the female had been acquired by purchase at the same time,—both birds having been brought over to this country under the experienced care of Mr. Broughton of the 'La Hogue.'

2. An example of the Little Whimbrel (*Numenius minor*, Müll.), from New South Wales, acquired by purchase, and believed to be the first living example of this species introduced into England.

3. An example of the Wattled Plover of Australia (*Lobivanellus lobatus*), likewise believed to be exhibited for the first time.

4. A second example of the rare Feejeean Parrot (*Platyercus (Pyrrhulopsis) splendens*), presented to the collection by Mr. C. Moore, of the Botanic Gardens, Sydney, N. S. W.

5. Three Trumpeter Swans (*Cygnus buccinator*, Richardson), received in exchange from the Superintendent of the Spring-Grove Cemetery, Cincinnati, U. S. A., and believed to be the first examples of this fine bird ever received alive in this country.

6. A second example of the Australian Bustard (*Otis australis*), presented by the Acclimatization Society of New South Wales.

The following papers were read:—

1. Note on the Genus *Geobates* of Swainson. By P. L. SCLATER, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S., Secretary to the Society

(Plate XXI.)

In 1838, in the third part of the volume of Lardner's 'Cabinet Encyclopædia' called "Animals in Menageries," the late Mr. Swainson described (p. 322) a new genus and species of Passerine birds under the name "*Geobates brevicauda*," with the following characters:—

"Ferruginous above, paler beneath; breast with darker shades and obsolete brown stripes; wings rufous; primary quills with the base, tips, and band in the middle black; secondaries brighter rufous, with a broad black band before the tips; inner wing-covers bright rufous; tail with a black band.

"Inhabits Southern Brazil. Very rare. Mus. nostr.

"Small. Resembling an *Anthus* or *Furnarius*. Tertiary quills blackish brown, paler on the margins; crown and ears dark; chin, lores, and eye-stripe whitish; legs pale. Total length  $4\frac{3}{10}$  inches, bill from the gape  $\frac{8}{10}$ , wings 3, as long as the tail, tail from the base  $1\frac{8}{10}$ , tarsus  $\frac{7}{10}$ , hind toe and claw  $\frac{4}{10}$ , middle ditto almost  $\frac{7}{10}$ ."

Although I have had large opportunities of examining American birds in most of the principal collections of Europe and America during these last ten or twelve years, the form thus noticed has not come under my observation until recently, when, among some duplicate skins received in exchange from the Vienna collection, I met with a bird which is undoubtedly the same as that described by Swainson. Upon communicating with Herr von Pelzeln, the distinguished naturalist who has the care of the birds of the Imperial collection, I was most obligingly furnished with the following extracts from Natterer's MSS., relating to this species:—

"*Anthus pæcilopterus*, P. Neuwied. Fœm. adult. Bivouac four leagues from S. Paul, on the road to Sorocaba, 27th January, 1819. Iris dark brown; bill black; base of the upper and half of the under mandible brown yellow, passing into flesh-colour; feet brownish yellow. Length 6", extent 9"; the tail reaches  $\frac{3}{4}$ " beyond the wing-tip.

"Mas adult, in moult, Ypanema, April 6, 1819. Iris dark brown; upper mandible dark brown, as likewise apical half of lower mandible; basal half of lower mandible and base of upper ditto beneath the nostrils dark flesh-colour; feet dark flesh-colour; joints and claws brownish. Length 6", extent 7" 2''; the tail reaches 6''' beyond the wing-ends.

"This bird is seen in small flocks of four or five, also singly in the meadows, at times in the neighbourhood of the cattle. It flies high into the air to sing, but the song is monotonous and not melodious"\*.

\* Herr von Pelzeln informs me that other specimens of this bird were obtained by Natterer at Ytararé, Pannapitanga, Registro Velho, and Sao Domingos.



mt lith

M & N Hanhart imp

GEOBATES PŒCILOPTERUS



Upon reference to Prince Maximilian of Neuwied's well-known 'Beiträge zur Naturgeschichte von Brasilien,' it is at once evident that Natterer has done rightly in referring his species to that author's *Anthus pæcilopterus*, the bird in question being described with the usual accuracy of that excellent work, although referred to a genus with which it has nothing more than an analogical relationship. But it is even possible we may have to go still further back for the earliest name of this little bird. Burmeister\* considers Prince Maximilian's *Anthus pæcilopterus* identical with the "*Alondra parda*" of Azara (Apunt. vol. ii. p. 11. no. 147), upon which Vieillot founded his *Anthus fuscus* (Nouv. Dict. xvi. p. 490, et Enc. Méth. p. 325). However, upon referring to Azara's original description, I do not think it sufficiently precise to warrant us in rejecting the Prince of Neuwied's name in favour of this somewhat doubtful synonym. So, until some modern naturalist shall have visited Paraguay and more clearly identified Azara's *Alondra parda* than it is possible to do from the old Spaniard's description, I propose to call the present species

*GEOBATES PÆCILOPTERUS*. (Pl. XXI.)

*Anthus pæcilopterus*, Max. Beitr. iii. p. 633 (1830).

*Geobates brevicauda*, Sw. An. in Men. p. 322 (1838); Cab. Mus. Hein. ii. p. 22; Reichenb. Handb. p. 215; Bp. Consp. p. 215.

*Geositta brevicauda*, Gray, Gen. B. i. p. 134.

*Anthus fuscus*, Burm. Syst. Ueb. iii. p. 120.

*Supra fuscus, uropygio rufescente; superciliis fulvis: alis cinnamomeo-rufis, nigro-fasciatis, primariorum quatuor externorum apicibus nigris: cauda quoque cinnamomeo-rufa, vitta subapicali nigra: subtus pallide fulvus, gutture albo, pectore fusco variegato: rostro corneo, mandibulæ inferioris basi et pedibus flavis: long. tota 4·5 poll. Angl., alæ 2·9, caudæ 1·5, rostri a rictu 0·7, tarsi 0·7.*

*Hab.* in Brasil. int. Minas Geraës (Max.); S. Paolo et Ypanema (Natt., sp. no. 336).

The correct position of this little bird in the natural system is evidently that assigned to it by Cabanis and Bonaparte—among the *Furnariinæ* or terrestrial group of the *Dendrocolaptidæ*—close to *Geositta*. Mr. G. R. Gray has united it to *Geositta*; but I think it has full claims to stand by itself, being distinguished from the latter genus by its short and perfectly straight beak, very short primaries and elongated secondaries (which are exactly of the same length as the primaries), short tail, and short and small hind claw.

The bird recently described by Burmeister as *Geobamon rufipennis* (Journ. f. Orn. viii. p. 249, et La Plata Reise, ii. p. 465) seems to be somewhat allied to the present form.

\* Syst. Ueb. d. Th. Bras. iii. p. 120.

2. On a New Species of Penelope, lately living in the Society's Gardens. By G. R. GRAY, F.R.S., F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c.

(Plate XXII.)

PENELOPE GREYII, sp. nov. (Plate XXII.)

Entirely shining bronzy æneous, especially on the wings, rump, and middle tail-feathers; the feathers of eyebrows, a line from base of lower mandible, and the margin round the naked part of neck grey, with æneous centres; nape, lower part of neck, and breast æneous, with white margins on the sides of the feathers; upper part of back and wing-coverts slightly margined with grey; abdomen partly obscure rufous, with black vermiculations and partly plain æneous; the feathers of the upper part of abdomen margined, especially on the sides of the feathers, with white; thighs æneous, with rufous margins; under tail-coverts bronzy black; bill and space round the eyes black; legs crimson; throat red, with a few black hair-like feathers.

Total length 25" 6"', wings 11" 6'''.

*Hab.* Santa Martha, New Granada.

I have taken the opportunity of naming this bird after Mr. Edward Greey, F.Z.S., to whom the Society is indebted for this and other interesting novelties from S<sup>ta</sup> Martha.

The specimen described was received by the Society on the 14th of July, 1865, but did not live long in the Gardens. It is now in the British Museum.

The species is most nearly allied to *P. nigricapilla* of my Synopsis of this genus, published in the Society's 'Proceedings' for 1860 (p. 269).

3. A Revision of the Genus *Hypna*, with Descriptions of the New Species. By A. G. BUTLER, F.Z.S., Assistant, Zoological Department, British Museum.

(Plate XXIII.)

A short time since, Mr. Salvin pointed out to me several inconsistencies in the various figures of *Hypna clytemnestra* and also in the specimens of *Hypna* in his collection, from which it appeared evident that the species of that genus must be more numerous than had hitherto been supposed.

I subsequently examined the specimens in the National Collection, and easily separated them into four distinct species. One of these has only lately come over from South America; the three other forms, however, are so distinct that I could see no reason why they should have been placed together. On referring to Mr. Doubleday's 'Genera,' I find the following note:—

"The only species of this genus is a native of the tropical parts



Smith

PLATE XXII

PENELOPE GREERYI

